

Message Text

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15

ORIGIN NEA-12

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DRAFTED BY NEA/P:JEBRIGGS

APPROVED BY NEA/P:JEBRIGGS

S/PRS - MR. KING (INFO)

AF/P - MRS. RUSSELL

IO/P - MR. BLACHLY

EUR/P - MR. SAVAGE

H - MISS FOLGER

----- 031584

R 232004Z APR 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

USINT DAMASCUS

USMISSION GENEVA

USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY SANAA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR
SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING IS PARTIAL
EXCERPT FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING APRIL 23,
1974:

QUOTE: MR. KING: THE SECRETARY WILL BE LEAVING ON HIS
MIDDLE EAST TRIP ON SUNDAY. BEFORE LEAVING ON FRIDAY --
AGAIN I HAVE NO FIXED TIME -- HE WILL HAVE A PRESS CONFER-
ENCE.

Q. CAN YOU GIVE AN ITINERARY YET?

A. NOT YET. I KNOW THERE HAS BEEN A LOT OF REPORTING AND
SPECULATION TO THE EFFECT THAT HE WILL SEE MR. GROMYKO THE
FIRST STOP IN GENEVA. THAT HAS NOT BEEN FINALLY WORKED OUT.
BUT IN ALL LIKELIHOOD HE WILL SEE THE SOVIET FOREIGN
MINISTER IN GENEVA. AGAIN, I CAN'T GIVE YOU A TIME OR A
DATE.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON A STORY IN THE WASHINGTON
STAR TODAY ABOUT AMERICAN PLANS TO PROVIDE CRASH AID TO
EGYPT?

A. WELL, I AM NOT GOING TO BE IN A POSITION TO BE AS
DETAILED AS THAT STORY IS. BUT WE HAVE SAID HERE MANY
TIMES, MOST RECENTLY YESTERDAY, THAT U.S. AND EGYPTIAN
RELATIONS HAVE IMPROVED QUITE DRAMATICALLY OVER THE PAST
SIX MONTHS. AND I WOULD ALSO SAY THAT WE ARE VERY PLEASED
BY THE CLOSE ASSOCIATION AND RAPPORT WE HAVE ESTABLISHED
WITH THE EGYPTIAN LEADERSHIP. OBVIOUSLY WE WANT TO CON-
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TINUE THE RAPPORT. BUT AT THE MOMENT, I AM JUST NOT GOING
TO BE ABLE TO TALK TO YOU IN ANY DETAIL ABOUT OUR PLANS
FOR, SHALL I SAY, FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS IN THE NEW RELATION-
SHIP.

Q. IS A TEAM HEADED BY MR. TEMPLETON, AN AID TEAM, IN
EGYPT NOW AND IN THE PROCESS OF COMING HOME PERHAPS TONIGHT?

A. I REALIZE I OWE YOU AN ANSWER ON THAT SUBJECT. ALL RIGHT. I DON'T HAVE THEIR DETAILED PLANS FOR TRAVEL. THE MATERIAL I HAVE INDICATES THEY ARE STILL THERE. THE TEAM IS A THREE-MEMBER GROUP HEADED BY BILL TEMPLETON, WHO YOU SHOULD KNOW IS THE DIRECTOR FOR THE OFFICE OF INTER-REGIONAL AFFAIRS IN THE MIDDLE EAST SECTION OF AID. HE IS ACCOMPANIED BY DANIEL PFOUTZ, WHO IS CHIEF OF AID'S CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT DIVISION. AND THEN FINALLY WILLIAM BROWN, WHO IS A CONSULTANT.

Q. WHO ARE THEY SEEING IN EGYPT?

A. WELL, I GATHER THEY ARE SEEING ALL THE APPROPRIATE PEOPLE IN THE MINISTRIES OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT, OR HOWEVER THEY ARE DESIGNATED.

BUT LET ME GENERALIZE A LITTLE BIT ABOUT WHAT THEY ARE DOING THERE. AS YOU KNOW, EGYPT HAS INDICATED IT WILL NEED A WIDE VARIETY OF OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE TO REHABILITATE THE ECONOMY. AND I AM SURE YOU HAVE GATHERED FROM WHAT I HAVE SAID HERE EARLIER TODAY, YESTERDAY AND DURING OTHER TIMES THAT OUR ATTITUDE TOWARDS AID TO EGYPT IS POSITIVE. THE THREE-MAN GROUP THAT WE NOW HAVE IN EGYPT IS THERE TO GIVE US A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF EGYPT'S FUTURE ECONOMIC NEEDS. IN PARTICULAR, THE TEAM SPECIFICALLY WILL BE TRYING TO IDENTIFY SPECIFIC ECONOMIC PROJECTS, WHICH WE, THE UNITED STATES INDIVIDUALLY, OR IN CONCERT WITH OTHER DONOR NATIONS -- AND AS YOU KNOW, WE HAVE BEEN ENCOURAGING THE INDUSTRIALIZED NATIONS TO PARTICIPATE IN MULTILATERAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN THAT PART OF THE WORLD -- THAT TOGETHER WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO HELP IN THIS PERIOD OF TRANSITION TO PEACEFUL CONDITIONS IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

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I WOULD CAUTION YOU AGAIN ON ASSUMING THAT THESE GENTLEMEN ARE ENGAGED IN MAKING ANY SPECIFIC COMMITMENTS. IT IS A STUDY GROUP, NOT A NEGOTIATING TEAM.

Q. CAN YOU GIVE US WORD AS TO WHETHER THIS IS SUEZ CANAL-ORIENTED ENTIRELY, OR ARE THERE OTHER AREAS OF STUDY AND DISCUSSION, IN THIS ECONOMIC PROGRAM?

A. I THOUGHT IT WAS PRETTY WELL UNDERSTOOD THIS GOES QUITE BEYOND CLEARING THE SUEZ.

A. NO, I DON'T MEAN JUST CLEARING THE SUEZ. I MEAN THE SUEZ AREA, REBUILDING THE CITIES, REMOVING THE SILT, CLEARING ORDNANCE. THOSE ARE WHAT I CONSIDER SUEZ AREA THINGS. ARE THERE OTHER THINGS BEYOND THAT GEOGRAPHIC AREA, BEYOND

REBUILDING THE CITIES AND THE CANAL AND THE SIDES OF IT,
TAKING OUT THE ORDNANCE -- IS THERE ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE
BEING CONTEMPLATED OUTSIDE THAT GEORGRAPHIC PORTION OF
EGYPT?

A. I WOULD PROBABLY NEED A LITTLE BETTER ADVICE THAN I
HAVE GOTTEN TO ANSWER THAT QUESTION SENSIBLY. BUT IT HAS
BEEN MY UNDERSTANDING THAT THE ANSWER TO THAT QUESTION
WOULD BE YES.

Q. WHAT OTHER INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES DO YOU EXPECT TO
CHIP IN WITH CO-OP AID PROJECTS IN EGYPT?

A. WELL, WE HAVE REPORTS FROM CAIRO TODAY ABOUT THE
AGREEMENT SIGNED BETWEEN -- OR REACHED; I DON'T KNOW THAT
THERE WERE DOCUMENTS EXCHANGED -- BETWEEN THE FEDERAL
REPUBLIC ON THE OCCASION OF CHANCELLOR BRANDT'S VISIT
THERE, AND THE EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT. THAT'S THE SORT OF
THING I AM TALKING ABOUT. OBVIOUSLY WE WELCOME THAT, AND
ARE PLEASED. END QUOTE. KISSINGER

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